

"Mahmud! If you cannot properly administer that part of your dominion then why did you conquer it. Do you know that you are responsible before God even if a blind man should fall into a pit on road side."

When Mahmud heard this bold speech he was very much impressed he spoke to the woman words of comfort and dismissed her with a large sum of money. Then he took immediate steps for the extirpation of the robbers.

STORY 87.

THE POWER OF THE CENSOR IN ISLAM.

A great general of Mahmud's army was indiscreet enough to leave his dwelling in a state of drunkenness. He was going along through the bazar surrounded by his body-guards when by chance he fell in with the censor.

As soon as the officer knew who the offender was he made up his mind to make him a public example, and by vindicating the honour of the law deter others from insulting Islam in this way. So he had him taken down from his horse and flogged him with his own hands.

The body-guard of the general looked on dumb-founded and dared not rescue their commander from the consequences of his indiscretion. The general too realizing the enormity of his offence submitted to the punishment in good grace.

The Sultan was informed of this occurrence and next day when the general came to attend the court he had his shirt removed, and found the marks on the whip of his back. He smiled and said, "Dear friend, repent and never in future dare to indulge in what is prohibited by God."